

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application, Claims 1-9 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

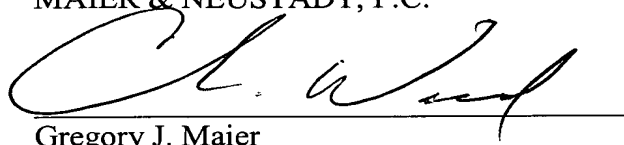
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview extended to Applicant's representative on February 23, 2005. During the interview, possible amendments to the claims were discussed. The Examiner indicated that removing "image forming apparatus" and "rotating" from the claims would overcome the outstanding grounds of rejection.

Claims 1-6 are amended to remove references to "an image forming apparatus" and "rotating." Claim 7 is rewritten in independent form and is amended to include "means for forming an image." Support for Claim 7 is found in original Claim 1 and Fig. 1, for example, and therefore, no new matter is added. Claim 9 is amended to include "means for forming an image" and "means for driving." Support for the amendments to Claim 9 is found in Fig. 1, for example, and therefore, no new matter is added. Accordingly, this ground for rejection is believed to have been overcome. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application should be considered in clear condition for formal allowance. A quick and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Maier', written over a horizontal line.

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